

Message Text

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P 260051Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 134188

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

1. A RELIABLE SOURCE ON THE TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL STAFF TELLS US THAT HAL SCOTT WILL ANNOUNCE HIS RESIGNATION AT THE JUNE 15 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE TIMING OF HIS DEPARTURE WILL DEPEND ON WHEN A SUCCESSOR CAN BE FOUND.

2. IMMUNITIES LEGISLATION: REF MOSCOW 11446, THE DEPARTMENT TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON MAY 24, AND WE EXPECT THE BILL TO PASS THIS SESSION. WE POUCHED A COPY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MAY 24 STATEMENT TO YOU. THE SOVIET EMBASSY ALSO PICKED UP A COPY. THE STATEMENT INCLUDES OUR PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SECTION 5, DESIGNED TO KEEP FOR THE DEPARTMENT THE OPTION OF SUGGESTING IMMUNITY TO A COURT, THEREBY OBTAINING (HOPEFULLY) THE NEED FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SOVIET EMBASSY TO HAVE A US ATTORNEY DO THAT. WE DO NOT WANT TO UNNECESSARILY GIVE THE IMPRESSION IN WASHINGTON THAT WE ARE TRYING TO CHANGE SECTION 5 PRIMARILY FOR THE SOVIETS. WE WILL TRY TO GET OUT A FRONT CHANNEL REPLY TO MOSCOW 11446, BUT WE STILL WANT TO HOLD OFF ON GIVING MFA A FORMAL REPLY TO ITS AIDE MEMOIRE. WHEN THE LEGISLATION IS

ENACTED WE CAN SEE IF THE ATMOSPHERE WOULD SUPPORT OUR SEEKING TO REACH A SUPPLEMENTARY BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS UNDER SECTION 4. RIGHT NOW THE ATMOSPHERE IS NOT GOOD FOR SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT.

3. RE WORLD OCEANS AGREEMENT, AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON HAS PROPOSED THAT WE OFFER A PRO FORMA EXTENSION UNTIL AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE ON-GOING LOS SESSION, DEFERRING RENEWAL AND JCM DECISIONS. THE DELEGATIONS HAVE DEPARTED GENEVA AND THE SESSION TECHNICALLY DID NOT END, AND WILL RESUME AUGUST 21 - SEPTEMBER 15 IN NEW YORK. WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT RICHARDSON'S APPROACH. SIDORENKO-FRANK CABLE MENTIONED MOSCOW 117733 WAS BRIEF AND KEYED TO JCM DATE PROPOSAL. IT WAS GIVEN TO US SHORTLY AFTER RECEIPT, BUT SANDS ARE SHIFTING SO FAST, WE HAVE BEEN THROWING CABLES AWAY AS FAST AS TYPED. US SIDE OF OCEANS COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW AND WE WILL TRY TO GET A STATUS REPORT OUT TO YOU.

4. RE STATE 127486: WE ARE STILL WORKING ON RESPONSE TO REPPERT'S REQUEST. THERE WILL BE SOME DELAY WHILE WE SEEK AUTHORIZATION HERE AND AGREEMENT FROM THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED.

5. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THE FRONT CHANNEL CABLE REPORTING THAT THE ESPIONAGE GRAND JURY CASE WAS POSTPONED AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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REQUEST OF THE SOVIETS. SPECIFICALLY, TOLYA ASKED THAT IT BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE MATTER IS DISCUSSED AT HIGH-LEVEL MEETING TODAY IN NEW YORK.
CHRISTOPHER

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